

Minutes from the first meeting of WeCAN held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
March 25, 2008 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the whole meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Hall (317) 896-5570 if you have any questions. -Tammy Blackburn

**General Comments from the City of Westfield**

The Mayor and the City of Westfield would like to thank all those who came to the first WeCAN meeting on March 25, 2008 and those that will be attending meetings in the future. The turnout was great. Many department heads were introduced. Residents had an opportunity to ask them questions.

**What residents would like to see in Westfield**

- Want Westfield to be a Destination
- See Downtown revitalized
- Positive force in developing change
- More communication
- Positive growth and opportunity
- Excited to be involved
- Want to say “I live in Westfield”, not “I live north of Carmel”

**General Comments from the Residents at Meeting**

- Police doing a great job
- Public Works did a great job with snow removal
- Better informed now with better press coverage
- Compliment administration
- Transparency has gotten better

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Want information and input (and how it impacts traffic in Westfield):**

- 31 development
- 31 and Keystone Ave construction
- 31 and 161<sup>st</sup>
- 161<sup>st</sup> survey not complete
- Grey Road and 32 - light
- Traffic
- Springmill and 161<sup>st</sup> current developments

**Networking**

- Want to share vendors/rates
- Establish networks
- Capital and strategic plan sharing

### **Sidewalks, Trails, Parks**

- Better East and West Transportation to Monon
- Expansion Monon to 32
- Trailheads
- Armstrong Park
- Simon Moon Park
- Freedom Trail Park
- New developments put in sidewalks or trails
- Sidewalks just end
- Lack of sidewalks in older developments
- More pedestrian walkways and greenspaces

### **IT**

- Want to pay water bill online
- WeCAN webpage with upcoming meetings / topics / links to HOAs
- HOAs will link our site on theirs
- Auto e-mail when updates to agenda on webpage are done
- E-mail notices of fire hydrant flushes or other maintenance
- GPS – where snow plow units are, what rotation is taking place

### **Miscellaneous**

- Trash and recycling citywide service
- Want WeCAN T-Shirt
- Post Office - Zip code issue for real estate, newspapers
- City appearance - Something attractive at entrances to Westfield (landscape, monument)
- Township Assessor - No consistency with Assessed Value
- Community Events - Upcoming events downtown, great way to disseminate information to the residents
- Signage – Does Developer or City pay for it? Developer

### **Fire Department**

Are we going to get a new fire station?

- Yes, currently we would fail in the response time report required by the National Fire Protection Association
- Also fail in staffing of Firefighters
- Quality of life becomes an issue as the care of a victim is delayed by even minutes
- It costs \$70k annually per Firefighter hired and must hire in groups

Mayor pointed out that 75% of our budget goes to Fire and Police

- Want to get standards of Public Safety up as soon as possible, priority

### **Speeding**

- On straight stretches
- Greyhound Pass
- Cars passing buses

### **Speeding Addressed**

Kurt Wanninger, Director of Public Works and Chief Kevin Jowitt, Police Chief, addressed the issues of speeding.

#### **Current Situation with Speeding Tickets**

- Can be written a ticket based on State Statute or City Ordinance
- Mostly State Statute now, cannot be fought easily in court
- With City Ordinance, City gets higher percentage of fine
- Westfield officers conducted 208 stops in one week
- Officers have discretion to give Warnings versus Actual Tickets
- Do not have authority to change State Highway Speeds
- In order to conduct more traffic stops, will have to approve overtime or hire more officers
- 80% of speeding offenders live in the neighborhood they are caught speeding in
- Traffic enforcement units in Carmel and other surrounding cities/towns, are virtually self-funding
  - How to prevent abuse of generating more funds than necessary
  - How to continue funding when the # of speeders decreases

There are actions that can be taken to address speeding.

- Patrolmen can be posted in neighborhoods
- Rumblestrips can be put in roads
- Traffic calming devices can be implemented (after traffic investigation by Public Works – please see Neighborhood Traffic Calming Policy, attached)

Kurt Wanninger highlighted some disadvantages of Traffic Calming Devices

- Cars go around speed bumps
- Sound of scraping from the bottom of cars
- Cars slowing down in front of speed bump (in front of someone's house) with stereo blaring late at night

Mayor Cook suggested a speeding fine of \$500 to deter speeders (or \$400 or \$300)

- Support for higher fines was given
  - Question about graduated late fee (Only for parking fine because it is a civic offense as opposed to a moving violation)

Kurt offered some suggestions to enforce speeding in your neighborhood

- embarrassment (go to house or work and explicitly say, please stop speeding)
- Newsletter reminders
- No basketball courts near street

#### **School Zones**

- 20mph from 7am to 7pm was suggested as too long
- Would be pleased if it were 25 which is what neighboring communities post
- Most of the neighboring communities have a 7 am to 4:30 pm enforcement time
- Little pedestrian traffic and long stretches of wide open road
- Concerns of plenty of afterschool events were brought up